

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for scene classification of a digital image comprising the steps of:
 - (a) extracting one or more pre-determined camera metadata tags from the digital image;
 - (b) obtaining an estimate of image class based on the extracted camera metadata tags, thereby providing a metadata-based estimate;
 - (c) obtaining an estimate of image class based on image content features, thereby providing an image content-based estimate; and
 - (d) producing a final estimate of image class based on a combination of the metadata-based estimate and the image content-based estimate.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metadata extracted in step (a) includes one or more of exposure time, aperture, shutter speed, brightness value, subject distance and flash fired.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the image content features in step (c) include one or more of color, texture and semantic features.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the combination in step (d) is obtained by using a Bayesian network.
5. A computer program product for implementing the method as claimed in claim 1.

6. A method for image enhancement of a digital image comprising the steps of:

(a) performing scene classification of the digital image into a plurality of scene classes based on image feature and metadata; and

(b) applying a customized image enhancement procedure in response to the scene class of the digital image.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the image enhancement is color balancing and the customized image enhancement procedure includes retaining or boosting brilliant colors in images classified as sunset scenes and removing warm-colored cast from indoor images classified as tungsten-illuminated scenes.